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JOURNAL OF THE  
**BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY**

Volume 10, No. 1

Winter 1988



**Happy New Year!**



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JOURNAL OF THE  
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

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- Philip Carrigan ..... President  
Russell Easterbrooks ..... Editor, BCCS Journal  
Paul Reuter ..... Secretary/Treasurer  
Steve Szcerbiak ..... Variety Coordinator  
Regular Contributing Editor ..... Jack White

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## BCCS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In my last message I indicated I was on my way to Australia as of this past September. To close on this revelation, Australia is a fantastic country. My stay in Cairns (tropical) and Sydney (the city life) were memorable. The numismatic component of my visit was nil—the shops in Sydney essentially contained pre-packaged coins commemorative Australian or contemporary British). Lastly, some of you know of my keen interests in Canadian coins, but none were to be found 'down under' as well.

Along these same lines, I am leaving tomorrow (Jan. 6) for Orlando and the F.U.N. Show. I've never attended this stellar event believing that a vacation during the first week of a year was unorthodox. With a new year 2000 perspective, I'm looking forward to this unique show and meeting Barber enthusiasts with the hope for a BCCS meeting. Oh yes, I might buy a coin or two as well.

I hope our members have noted and enjoyed the superb series of articles in *Coin World* focused on Barber dimes, quarters and half dollars. Paul Gilkes did a great job writing these and pulling together interesting information. One dividend of this series has been a sharp increase in new members directly attributable to these articles. You may be members of local or state coin groups where mention of the Barber Society could be met with interest and potential new members. I can supply informational brochures to aid in this purpose. Contact me with your needs and I'll send these.

This issue will close the 1999 year while it arrives into the start of year 2000. Each member should consider what they want from the Barber Society and then further consider how they might contribute to that aim. New members and contributions to the *Journal* are most welcome for our continued longevity. As an individual member, you have unique and interesting ideas to contribute. How do you acquire coins (I'm not happy with Internet auctions as a personal view)? How do you keep records of coins you own, purchase price, etc. (do you have computer software which does this, what program)? Please think along these lines and either write a few lines or call Russell or I.

I expect Paul and Russell will have some summary of the year for all of us to consume and enjoy.

Numismatic regards,  
Phil Carrigan



## FROM THE EDITOR

Well the year 2000 has finally arrived, and for each collector that means new coin purchases, and most importantly new goals to achieve. I'm a member of many fine coin collecting clubs, and most struggle with the same question, how to involve, and motivate its members. Most members only link to their individual numismatic organization is by a club publication. A great deal of work is involved in the publishing of a clubs journal and we each enjoy these publications as numismatically stimulating, as well as informative, and interesting. Supporting a club's publication is something I believe is very important. Many of you have read my articles in countless other publications, besides the *Barber Journal*, and I hope you have found them interesting. I contribute these articles because I enjoy writing, doing research and the overwhelming feeling of satisfaction I receive seeing my work published. In this new year make a commitment to contribute an article, letter to the editor, or photographs to your club's publication.

Enclosed in the *Journal* you'll find a membership renewal form with a list of articles that appeared in the last four *Journals*. Please vote for the articles you enjoyed the most by placing a 1, for first, 2, for second, and 3, for third next to the corresponding articles. Send the form, along with your membership check to Paul Reuter. We will tabulate the vote and announce the winners of the 1999 Barber Literary Award in the next *Journal*. Now is the time to send in your article for the 2000 Literary Award so get busy!

This is the last *Journal* to have the "RED" cover which proved to be rather hard to work with. Beginning with the next journal we will use a light "BLUE" cover, as voted on by the membership last year. If you have any comments or suggestions about our *Journals* format please drop me a line.

I hope to have an e-mail address in the coming months when I up-date my computer system, which will make it even easier to get in touch with me. I should know by the next *Journal* the outcome of the Vermont state quarter design decision, hopefully my design contribution will be the winner. If you have time to send a design idea to your state don't hesitate, chances to be part of history don't come along that often.

Thanks for your attention;  
Russell Easterbrooks

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I've been collecting coins for 40 years, and have been interested in error coins for quite some time. I have finally found the coin I've been looking for all this time. I am writing to you because the local coin dealers are not very knowledgeable in error coins and as this coin is a Barber half, I am hoping you can direct me to someone with an interest.

At first glance it is not the prettiest of coins. It would probably grade a VG-8. "LIBERTY" is visible in the headband except the bottom half of the B,E,R. Looking closer, however, and quite visible to the naked eye, this coin was double struck on the obverse with a wonderful clockwise rotation, the width of one star. This puts stars between all the stars. In addition, the complete hair ribbon is doubled; as are the back of the head, the nose, and nostril. Something is happening around the date, but it's not clear.

The reverse is even more fun. "UNITED STA", the last "A" in AMERICA, and the upper left stars are tripled. The ribbon, leaves, arrow shafts, wings, and part of the shield are doubled, some faintly, some quite boldly. There is a counter clockwise rotation with each strike.

It appears to have been struck out of the collar. It is nearly 1/8" larger than a normal half, and is slightly thin. The coin is a 1914-S.

Yours  
Michael Barton

### Editors Note:

Great find Mike! I published your letter to see if any members have found anything like this. I will forward your letter to Steve Szcerbiak our Society's variety coordinator for his thoughts. This sounds to me like a struck coin, sticking to a die, then striking a blank planchet in the collar. This second strike would make the coin thinner, being on top of the planchet already in the collar, and probably create some design movement similar to ejection doubling. The side stuck to the die would undoubtably come lose during the second strike, also with some movement involved making a double image. The obverse of your coin sounds like the side stuck to the die, as the doubling is more wide spread in the design. This type of error is sometimes difficult to understand, and of course there surely are other possibilities how it could happen.



## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY/TREASURER

Several members responded to my message in the last *Journal* regarding back issues. As a result the last of several back issues are now gone. Only copy machine copies will be available in the future. With this current *Journal* being the 40th the society has published, we still have a plentiful supply of about 35 different issues.

This is the time for dues renewal. A surprising number of members have already paid their year 2000 dues. Those of you who have not will receive a renewal notice along with this *Journal*. If you have not paid, please use the enclosed notice as a reminder to renew your membership.

And finally, in the last *Journal* I ran a small ad listing some surplus coins for sale. It was very effective and I sold what I had advertised. If you have a similar situation, you might try such an ad.

Best regards for the New Year to all members,

*Paul Reuter*  
Secretary/Treasurer

### BCCS ADVERTISEMENT RATES

1/8 page	1 issue .....	\$12	4 issues .....	\$40
1/4 page	1 issue .....	\$20	4 issues .....	\$70
1/2 page	1 issue .....	\$30	4 issues .....	\$100
1 page	1 issue .....	\$70	4 issues .....	\$250
1 page inside front or rear cover	1 issue ....	\$80	4 issues .....	\$300
1 page outside rear cover	1 issue ....	\$125	4 issues .....	\$400

### THE JOURNAL NEEDS YOUR ARTICLES!

Remember your articles submissions automatically enter you in the BCCS Literary Contest. The article receiving the most member votes will win a 1st place prize of \$50, second prize will be \$25, and third place will be a free BCCS one year membership. So, make sure your membership is up to date, and get your article in the mail to Russell at the address on page one.

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS MARCH 31st**

## A Weak Mintmark

by Jack White

I would like to report what may be a new reverse variety for a half dollar (1895-O) struck from a reverse die with a very weak mintmark. I recently acquired a third specimen of this coin, all of which grade fine. My first piece was purchased four years ago.

The weak "O" mintmark was probably caused by a grease filled die, such as the 1989-P quarter which generated a lot of interest when the "P" was barely visible. The "O" mintmark tilts right and is weakest on its right side, and slightly thicker on the left side on all three coins. Perhaps this extra thickness (though small) was the result of uneven wear on the die.

The reverse overall is nicely struck for a New Orleans mint half. The shield is nicely struck throughout, which in itself is unusual from this mint. New Orleans coins generally are weakly struck on the right side of the shield. The reverse rim on this coin is uniformly struck, and the eagle's tail shows a fair amount of detail consistent with the fine grade.

My three coins also appear to be from three different obverse dies. One coin displays the digit 1 of the date centered on a denticle, while the other two pieces have the 1 centered between the denticles. There is slight, but distinct differences in the placement of the digits 895 on the latter two coins. There is nice detail in the head wreath on one coin in particular with the obverse nicely struck on each coin.

### **Editor's note:**

So check your 95-O halves for this interesting discovery, which may be limited to this one reverse die. It is also quite possible that the "O" mintmark punch was worn or grease filled, or even tilted to one side when the "O" was struck into the die. It's also interesting to note that, according to the 1895 mint report, a total of 40 half dollar dies were sent to the New Orleans mint, while only a total of 19 were used at the Philadelphia mint. Yet the mintage figures are 95-O, 1,766,000 and the 1895 half 1,835,218. Have you ever noted how New Orleans mintage figures nearly always end in, 000.

### **WANTED**

Barber Quarter - varieties, including RPD's, RPM's, cuds, die cracks, filled and missing letters, die doubling and other errors. Also, unlisted mintmarks.

Please contact; Earl Engle, P.O. Box 419251, Kansas City, Missouri, 64141  
[eengle1234@AOL.com](mailto:eengle1234@AOL.com) or 816-842-8600

## Another Discovery

By Jack White

For all the Barber cherrypickers here is something to look for, an 1892 half with a tripled reverse. I recently purchased an unattributed 1892 Philadelphia half dollar, in the grade of fine with a tripled reverse die. This variety can probably only be seen on a coin grading fine or above. I've viewed many lower grade 1892 halves without success, and after locating the above mentioned coin the tripling on the reverse lettering is barely discernible on this piece.



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# Becoming A Barber Collector

By Russell Easterbrooks

My coin collecting interest began some 30 years ago, and the knowledge I have acquired has made my numismatic endeavors very rewarding.

A collector entering the field of Barber coins today can experience the goal of building an outstanding collection, especially in any of the circulated grades. The Barber designs stood the test of time in circulation quite well, with lower grades retaining most of the original design characteristics. Higher grades such as About Uncirculated exhibit a nearly "new" coin, without all the entanglements of the many mintstate grading differences.

Barber coins span the end of one era, and the beginning of a new century offering countless historical implications. Coins representing four different mints, major rarities, varieties, overdates, and micro mintmarks are all part of the Barber collector experience.

I would recommend specializing in one of the three Barber denominations, so you can focus your attention to the study, examination, and expertise needed to attain your goal of completing a set. The knowledge acquired in your chosen field will serve you well when quality, price, and investment potential are important factors in the assembling of your collection.

Start by purchasing common dates and study their strike characteristics, surface wear, mintmarks, die-breaks, etc. However, be selective, as common dates are readily available. Don't pass-up a chance to examine a coin that you may already have or may not be able to purchase at that time. Remember, your study and learning experience is a never ending, and the thrill of a discovery comes to the collector who knows one when he sees it! Reading every book, and numismatic publication to improve your knowledge base is very important. I subscribe to countless publications which keeps my mailbox full of interesting reading, further stimulating my collecting interests.

House your coins in 2x2 holders to begin with as this will make studying the coins easier. Buy a good quality book to display your collection in after you've acquired about 25 coins. This will help avoid the haste to purchase coins brought on by the "empty book syndrome." You will ultimately up-grade some coins as their availability becomes evident, to "improve" the look of your collection. No matter, start a second collection and continue your adventure with coin collecting!

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## Barber Money

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By Daniel Mulvey

Hello fellow members I hope this New Year is the one in which you acquire that elusive barber coin you have been looking for. I have been collecting barber money for the past four/five years now. Barber money is pretty much all I have been buying lately. I am a collector, not a dealer; therefor I do not have a lot of opportunity to buy coins at wholesale level, but I will buy the barber money if the price is right. I like the barber money because of its history, the challenge of finding nice barber coins, and for the most part the coins are underrated and some are underpriced.

I have collected and completed all three series, dimes, quarters, and halves. The grading for these sets vary from good to one or two AU's. Most of the coins are VG's to VF's, in the dimes and quarter sets. The three keys in the quarters are VG's with the exception of the 01s, which is a G6. I have two complete sets of halves, one is a fullrimmed good and the other set is a VG8 to VF20 by today's standards. The VF20s and 25s were bought as F15s in the early 1990's. I have accumulated a bunch of barber's and buy problem free coins if I run across them at a show. As you know this is not very often.

Earlier in 1999 I decided to collect a set of XF40/45 barber halves. I decided to do this set because of the size of the coin its self. It is easier to see the detail on these coins. Another reason is the fact that none are priced out of range that makes it impossible to afford. I wanted to do this set because it would be nice to look at a set of coins that pretty much matched up in detail. It would be nice to match the colors of the halves, though from what I have seen this appears to be something I will not be able to do. As you know a lot of barber money was cleaned earlier on in the 1900's. I stay away from cleaned coins unless they have naturally re-toned through the years.

Out of the 73 coins in the series I have acquired 27 of them already. Some were bought at coin shows and others by the mail. As you know XF's are very hard to locate. What I am finding is coins are way over graded. I have received low end VF's as XF's. I have sent back more coins to mail order dealers than I can remember. I have stopped buying any coins from mail order due to the fact of frustration and the cost to send them back. This cost cuts into any profit I could make should I sell the coins down the road. The exception would be a key date coin that I could send back if I did not like it. The most frustrating part in buying these coins through the mail is the fact they usually are damaged in some way such as scratches, digs, rim dents, etc... You all have seen them. When I have ordered these coins I specifically tell the person on the other end, do not send me

*Continued on page 12*

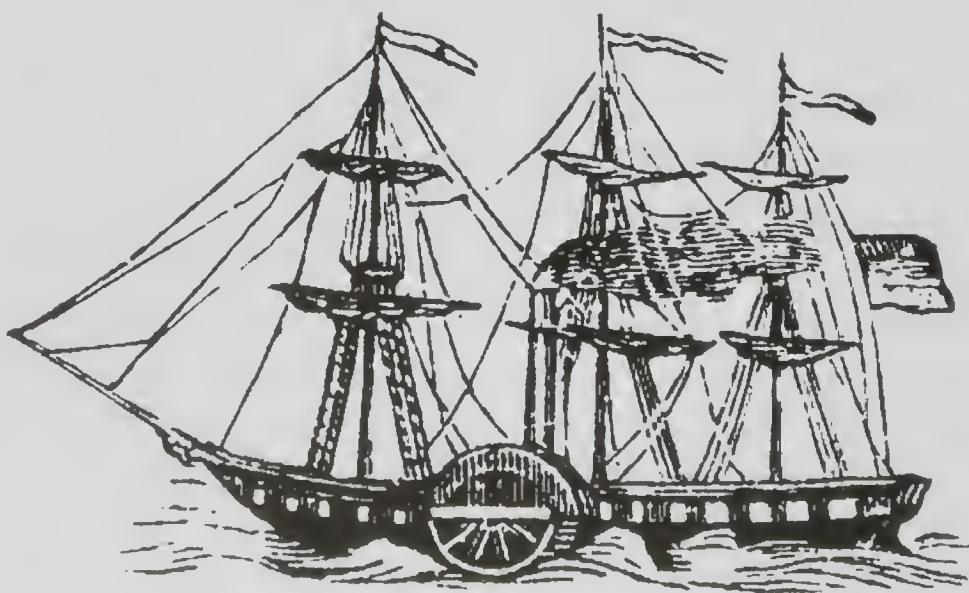
# Cherrypicking Barber Love Tokens

By Lindsay Ashburn

The love token fad had nearly died out by 1890. However, the introduction of Barber coinage in 1892 temporarily rekindled interest in this practice. Probably 90% of the Barber love tokens I have seen are on 1892 dated coins, usually dimes.

It is a humorous notion that cherries can be picked from the field of love tokens. As far-fetched as it may seem, my recent experience is an eye-opener. I often check the online auctions for love tokens, mainly to hunt for those on barbers and those with initials, names or dates that are appropriate for members of my family.

One day I found one on an 1893 dime, nothing special, just a simple floral design that once had tiny rhinestones embedded to represent the flower blossoms. The stones had fallen out long ago. In other words, the love token did not really impress me and I did not bid on the coin. A non-variety collecting friend in California (who jokingly refers to himself as my West Coast Agent) keeps his eyes peeled for the varieties and errors that I so keenly enjoy. The next day he emails me about this very coin, asking if I have seen it and if I have looked closely at it. I had not, but decided I should. Upon closer inspection of the crystal clear scan, I noticed a small glint of light in the lower loop of the 3. Could it be the 1893/2 overdate?? My heart raced, and momentarily I returned to my computer screen with my own 1893/2 specimen and loupe to make a comparison. The spacing of denticles beneath each digit matched my coin perfectly. The 1 also pointed just beyond the B, exactly as I hoped. The love token was indeed a very decent XF-AU 1893/2. My bid and shipping costs totalled \$10.50, a modest sum for a love token, and a VERY modest sum for a high grade specimen of the popular overdate. Even though the reverse is gone, the obverse is very well struck and will help me in comparing diagnostics of this variety for years to come.



## Burlington Vermont Coin Show

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By Russell Easterbrooks

The fall coin show in Burlington, Vermont was once again a huge success. I am always amazed at the number of collectors who attend a show of this size (35 dealers) in the New England area. The show director called me a few days ago to confirm this years head count, at 435.

I arrived at the show early, so as not to miss-out on any good stuff. I dropped off a small group of Barber journals at the front table, and went inside amongst a flurry of activity. On my first pass around the busy floor, I purchased three Barber dimes, 1902-S VF, 1916-S ch AU, and an 1892-S in VG. I also located a fairly nice Vermont copper 1786 that graded a strong VG. One dealer had a large wooden bowel filled with AU silver dollars for \$10.00 each. I cherrypicked six frosty coins for Christmas presents, once I was able to get close to the dealers table! When I spoke to the dealer on my second pass around the floor, he told me he had placed 80 coins in the bowl and they all sold in less than half an hour! He went on to explain that he had purchased the coins "very reasonably" from an estate. I finished my second trip around the floor picking up a 1911 Barber Quarter in ch AU. I visited for a time with some of the dealers as the floor thinned-out and met some new members of the host club. As I left the floor to get a bite to eat, I noticed the twenty journals I had displayed on the entrance table were already gone.

I returned in the afternoon to attend a club meeting, where I was to give a short discussion on colonial coins. I displayed the Vermont copper I had purchased earlier in the day, and ended up selling it to a young couple. I made a small profit on the coin, but it felt good selling it to these young folks who, didn't realize Vermont minted it's own coins beginning in 1785.

A short time later, an older gentlemen, (with one of our journals in his pocket) approached me with a well worn Barber half he wanted an opinion on. The obverse graded G, while the reverse was only AG. But the mintmark was visible and clearly was the micro-O 1892 half! We chatted for a few minutes before he thanked me and he went on his way.

He wasn't interested in selling the coin, but it sure is surprising what can turn up when some coin collectors gather to enjoy swapping knowledge.

## Barber Money

Continued from page 9

problem coins. They still do. You figure it out. I do understand that circulated coins, no matter the grade, will have some marks. I expect this and own many coins with circulation marks on them.

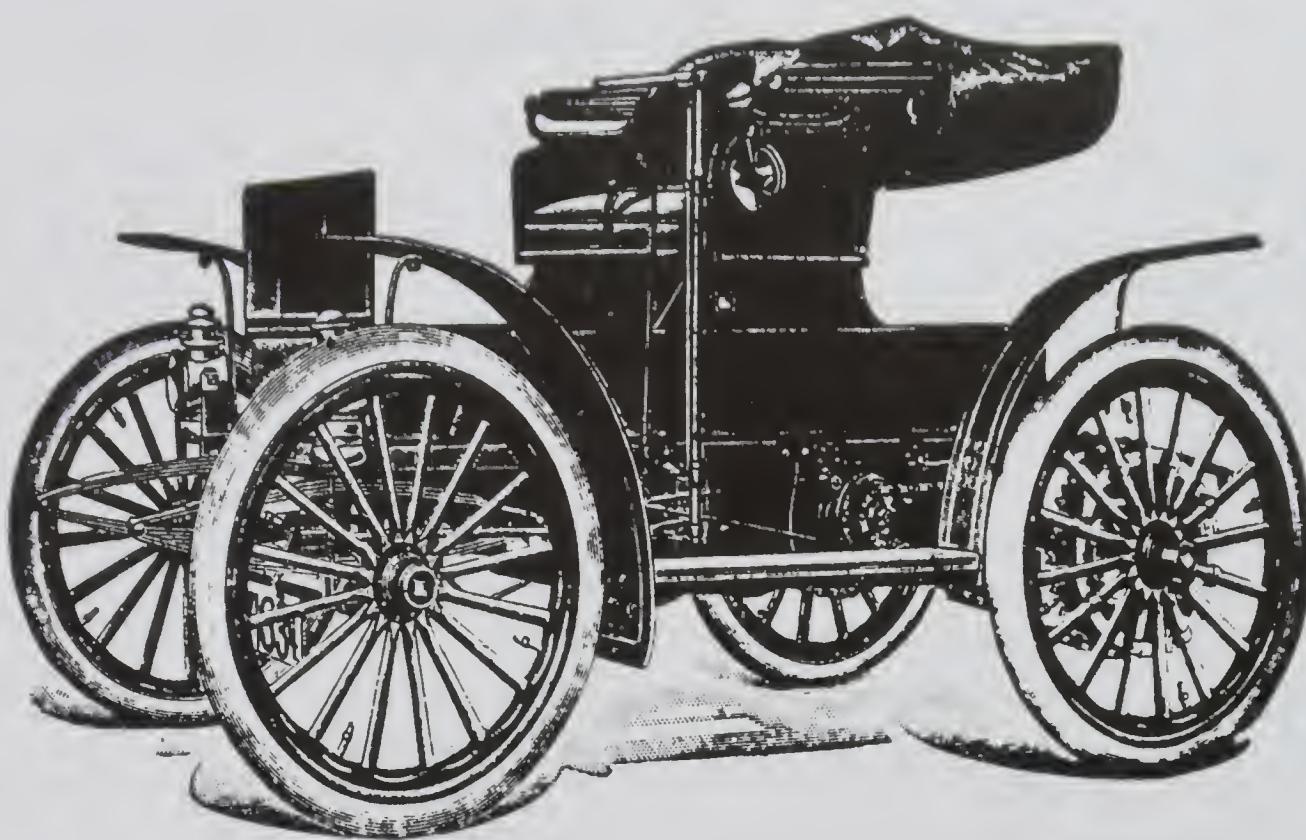
As a rule I do not and will not buy a problem coin. I did buy a XF40 1897o half last year that has numerous small ticks and a couple of small marks on the obverse profile and fields. In spite of the marks it is not a bad looking coin. I bought it way under the grade sheet price for the grade. Normally I would not buy a coin like this but you know how rare it is for the grade. Believe it or I have bought the 1904s in an XF40 slab from a barber dealer, from Virginia. This is a problem free coin with the exception of a small nick on the top of the 9 in 1904. This coin still has specks of mint luster on the reverse between protected areas. For those of you who collect XF barber halves you know this is most difficult to find.

I know I have a long time to go before I complete this set. I am looking forward to doing so. There is only one coin shop in my city and the owner never gets any decent barber money to sell. There are no big shows here either. I have to go out of state for a bigger show. Even then it is hard to locate decent barber money. It just takes a long time to find these coins undamaged and not priced out of this world. If anyone has any pointers or stories about trying to collect XF barbers halves, I would be interested in hearing about it.

### Barber Quarters for sale

1892-S	IGC VF20, original gray	\$95
1892-S	XF45+, original medium gold/brown	\$140
1893-S	XF45, original light gold	\$110
1894-S	NGC AU55, original med. gray/gold	\$180
1897-O	VF35+/XF40, original med. gold	\$275
1900-O	AU50+, was NGCAU53, choice original	\$325
1901-O	XF40, original med. gold/brown, RARE	\$360
1902-S	VF35+/XF40, nice orig. light-med. gray	\$95
1903-O	AU58, flawless med. gold, choice	\$200
1905-O	XF45, nice and original light gold/gray	\$325
1909-O	ANACS XF45, orig. light gold/gray, RARE	\$395
1913	XF40+, nice original, light med. gray	\$350

Call evenings for more information. Other dates available. Checks must clear. Please add \$4 for postage and handling. 10 day return privilege. Doug Veal, BCCS 738, 5747 Addison Ave NE Cedar Rapids, IA 52402 Phone 319-395-9452 evenings.



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## Theories on the 1894-S Dime

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By Russell Easterbrooks

As we know, 24 1894-S dimes were minted at the mint in San Francisco during the year 1894. There are many Theories why only 24 were made. The first one was that, at the end of the fiscal year, June 20, 1894, it was necessary for the mint at San Francisco to show two dollars and forty cents to close the books on a bullion account.

One other theory was, that the San Francisco mint superintendent J. Daggett had the 24 coins struck for himself and some of his banker friends, when he realized the mint was not to coin any dimes that year.

I believe there is some truth in both of these theories.

My theory is that superintendent Daggett was told later in the year there would not be any dimes minted at that facility for the year 1894.

The 1896 U.S. Mint Report states that all dies are numbered and furnished upon request of the superintendents of the branch mints.

So it would make sense that Draggett would already have had all the dies for the coinage to be minted at San Francisco.

The mint report also states that the dies are to be returned to the Philadelphia mint at the end of the year, where they would be defaced and destroyed.

Daggett would need an excuse to mint some coins for himself and his banker friends. The idea of balancing the books for a bullion account was a good one, as his coiner Charles Gorham retired August 31, 1894 and his wastage account had to be settled.

Also a commission was appointed by the president to test the weight and fineness of gold and silver coins minted at each mint for that year. The U.S. Mint Report of 1895 states the San Francisco mint reserved 3,981 silver coins for the commission, which were delivered to the mint at Philadelphia. The total value of these coins was \$1,973.85. The committee examined 12 coins selected at random from those reserved, and weighted 111 in mass. The interesting figure here is the value of the coins reserved for the commission. The 85 cents would mean no less than one 1894-s dime was seen by the commission. It would also make sense that the committee would want to weigh one coin of each denomination from each mint, so here was another excuse for Daggett to coin some dimes.

There is also the possibility that two obverse dies were used. This seems unlikely, however, if the coins were struck after Charles Gorham retired. The new coiner A.T. Spotts an inexperienced coiner may have allowed the dies to clash or make some other mistake. With Daggett watching closely and seeing this, he may have had Spotts use another die.

Continued on next page

## Theories on the 1894-S Dime

Continued from last page

After Daggett's coins were minted he would have saved 12 or 14 and sent the rest to the president's commission.

The books were now balanced, the commission had some dimes to weigh and check for fineness, and Daggett and his friends had some true rare coins.

Sooner or later more information will surface and maybe some day we will have more than just theories. Searching through information for clues to this and other numismatic puzzles has made my Barber collecting far more fun than just buying coins. Don't miss out on the fun.

*Editor's Note: Reprinted from Vol. 4 #1 Barber Journal*



## Message from Steve Szcerbiak

Greetings all, the holidays have passed and we seemed to have dodged the Y2K disaster, so we can turn our attentions back to this wonderful hobby. Interest in die varieties continues to grow, unfortunately Barbers are still not faring well, however our ranks continue to search.

Terry Searcy's great find of a 14-D dime with a major reverse die break (cud), pictured in the 1/3/2000 issue of *Coin World* proves there are still major errors to be found.



Jack White reports of an 1898 dime with strong repunching inside of the upper loop of the final 8 with minor repunching below the 18. Also a curved very long die scratch from in front of the ear through the hair to behind the eye.

An interesting question was asked on the internet, "Is there any premium for mintmark positions unknown in Dave Lawrence first book on Barber Quarters?" Personally

I only know of 1 quarter with a mintmark position premium. Can any member offer more feedback?

The ANA in Chicago last summer was an inspirational experience. I had the opportunity to examine a unique pair of halves from a Louisiana collector. The 92-O and 95-O coins were awesome, had they have been Morgan dollars the pair would surely have been graded DMPL! I feel these may be the same coins that Walter Breen classified as branch mint proofs.

Also at the ANA BCCS meeting a fellow hobbyist passed around his half set for viewing which included a 92-O micro-O that graded at least fine or better. At this ANA I was lucky enough to find a high grade 1906-D dime with a RPD and major MPD in a slab.

The final discovery of 1999 goes to my wife Barbara for finding in my personal collection an 1892 quarter slabbed double die reverse with a polished down eagles wing where it meets the shield. Discoveries can be made no matter the grade. We are the holders of the vast majority of Barber coinage. Many unknown varieties are out there. Please let me know if you find anything different about your coins.

# "QUALITY BARBERS FROM JACK BEYMER"



*Call or write us today for  
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**Jack H. Beymer**

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